

# JTA daily news bulletin

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## Synagogue Council, Community Relations Council Hit Black 'Reparations' Demands

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America and the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council, representing a great majority of the American Jewish community, issued a joint statement today rejecting the demand of the National Black Economic Development Conference for \$500 million in reparations for "200 years of slavery" and its threat to seize churches and synagogues and hold them in ransom. The joint statement, issued for the guidance of synagogues and other communal institutions, described the demands and the tactics as objectionable on both "moral and practical grounds."

The statement was issued after James Forman, leader of the Negro organization, had disrupted services at New York's Riverside Church to air his demands and his followers had threatened to disrupt services at Temple Emanu-El in New York. (A group of 10 black militants was arrested in Los Angeles for interrupting services in the First Methodist Church there to voice the demand for reparations.) After a meeting with Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clergymen, Mayor John V. Lindsay offered to send police to any church or synagogue in the city which feared a possible demonstration by the militants.

The joint statement today admitted that religious and communal institutions had not done all they should for racial and economic justice but declared that the reparations demand was not "the answer to the inequities and injustices of our society." It stressed that "what is required is massive government action in the areas of employment, housing, education, health and welfare." This it said was why the signatory organizations urged support of the Kerner Commission Report.

The statement urged congregations and communal institutions to "redouble their efforts" to effect restoration of state and Federal budget cuts in the areas of employment, housing, education, health and welfare and "indicate their support of higher taxes, if necessary, adequately to finance these measures." The joint statement also urged the synagogue and community to "strengthen communication with black communities, both on the clergy and lay levels, and to contribute to the support of indigenous self-help projects." The two organizations said they and their national constituent agencies were prepared to assist synagogue and communal institutions in the implementation of these goals.

The joint statement condemned the tactics used by the Black Economic Conference to further its demands, charging that they "involve disruption of divine services, demands for 'ransom' and threats of violence." It noted that "violence does not contribute to the fashioning of a better society," warning that "violence only breeds more violence and nourishes repression, not justice." The statement affirmed that "the 'revolution' in our cities and on our campuses does not create its own morality. The exegesis which enables some religious leaders to suspend Biblical injunctions against violence, arson and murder and to invest these with a special grace when committed in the name of the 'revolution' has no sanction in Jewish tradition."

The two coordinating bodies said they issued their statement at this time "not only to clarify our position in regard to the demands and the tactics of the Black Economic Development Conference, but to urge that reprehensible actions not be permitted to divert our attention from the hard tasks which require our efforts and resources if our moral and religious professions are to be taken seriously." The Synagogue Council of America speaks for six national rabbinical and synagogue organizations. The NJCRC, in addition to the Synagogue Council members, includes six national Jewish civic organizations and 81 Jewish councils in cities throughout the United States.

The Black Economic Conference's demand for \$500 million in "reparations" was endorsed by the board of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization, but the Foundation did not approve the tactics announced by Mr. Forman and employed at Riverside Church. Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, director of the inter-religious affairs department of the American Jewish Committee, who is president of the Foundation, in a personal statement, rejected the "revolutionary ideology and racist rhetoric" of the manifesto and the "tactics of disruption of churches and synagogues." Rev. Lucius Walker, executive director of the Foundation, said it would seek \$270,000 to finance the conference.

## League Against Anti-Semitism Demands Probe Into Alleged Anti-Jewish Remarks By Envoy

PARIS, May 12 (JTA) -- The International League Against Anti-Semitism and Racism insisted today that Foreign Minister Michel Debre open a thorough investigation into reports that Armand Berard, French Ambassador to the United Nations, made an anti-Semitic remark in the presence of a number of journalists at UN headquarters in New York. M. Debre denied the reports Saturday at a meeting with the League's president, Pierre Bloch. But M. Bloch said today that his group had new reports which tended to confirm the earlier one.

The League based its charge against M. Berard on wire service reports which, it said, quoted the French diplomat as saying that "Jewish gold" was responsible for the downfall of President Charles de Gaulle. The remark was alleged to have been made in the UN delegates lounge on the night of April 27-28, after French voters rejected Gen. de Gaulle in a national referendum. A Reuters

dispatch from the UN the day after the referendum quoted a French diplomat, later identified as M. Berard, as having said that "large sums" had been spent by "pro-Israel circles" to defeat Gen. de Gaulle. M. Berard represents France at the Big Four Mideast talks now going on in New York.

Israelis and many Jews abroad were angered by Gen. de Gaulle's arms embargo against Israel and his openly pro-Arab policies. They also blame him for engineering the Big Four talks which Israel bitterly opposes. M. Debre said at a Cabinet meeting Saturday that France's Mideast policy will "remain unchanged" despite Gen. de Gaulle's departure from political leadership. He said France will continue to pursue its efforts for a Mideast peace "as it has done up to now" and that its overall policies toward Israel and the Arab states will remain the same so long as the present Government is in power.

The League Against Anti-Semitism and Racism, at its 26th annual conference yesterday, urged French Presidential candidates to make public their position on racism and anti-Semitism. The League said it was considering sending detailed questionnaires on the subject to all candidates.

### Efforts By Lebanese To Reach Accommodation With Commandos Reportedly Collapse

LONDON, May 12 (JTA) -- Efforts by Lebanese military leaders to reach some sort of an accommodation with Palestinian commandos collapsed today according to reports reaching here from Beirut. Talks have been going on for five days to reach an agreement on guerrilla activities based on Lebanese soil. A session held today was described as the "final attempt" to break the deadlock. But it was not attended by Yassir Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization and leader of El Fatah, the most powerful of the commando groups. He had reportedly already left for Amman, Jordan.

The guerrillas are demanding a free hand for incursions against Israel. Lebanese officials are trying to convince them that stepped up commando activity against Israel would bring severe reprisals and possible Israeli annexation of southern Lebanon and its fertile coastal plain. According to reports from Beirut, leaders of the PLO said no agreement had been reached between the two sides. But Shafik el-Hout, chief of the Beirut office of the PLO, said "we all see each other's point of view more clearly than ever."

The Lebanese dispute with the Palestinian guerrillas belonging to El Fatah and the Syrian-sponsored al-Saiqa movement led to clashes between Lebanese troops and commandos and rioting in Beirut and other cities which brought about the fall of the Government of Premier Rashid Karami. No new Lebanese Government has been formed. President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt sent a special envoy to Beirut, Dr. Hassan Sabry al-Kholi, to mediate the dispute. He returned to Cairo yesterday after guerrilla leaders rejected his proposal that the entire question of the role of commandos in the Arab states be brought before a meeting of the Arab League foreign ministers.

Up until today Yassir Arafat took part in the talks with Lebanese Army officers. He insisted that Lebanon grant El Fatah the same privileges and facilities that it enjoys in Jordan, Syria and Egypt. El Fatah has free time on Cairo radio for nightly broadcasts. But it does not operate from Egyptian soil against Israel nor is it permitted by Syrian authorities to launch attacks from Syrian soil. With El Fatah incursions from Jordan a failure owing to the nature of the terrain and the efficiency of Israeli security measures, Lebanon remains its only possible effective base.

(Israeli security forces rounded up 11 suspected El Fatah members in the West Bank town of Hebron today. A Defense Ministry source said Hebron has been a center of Arab resistance to Israeli occupation.)

### Israeli Soldier Wounded By Egyptian Shell Fire At Canal

TEL AVIV, May 12 (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was slightly wounded by Egyptian shell fire north of Qantara this morning as Israeli and Jordanian forces exchanged mortar, artillery and tank fire across the Jordan River near the Mandassa and Allenby bridges. No other Israeli casualties were reported.

A military spokesman said Egyptian shelling was concentrated north of Qantara in the Port Fuad area and the outskirts of Port Said. He said the Egyptians have shifted the focus of their artillery barrages from the southern sector of the Suez Canal, the main target up to about six weeks ago, to the northern sector. Israeli officials believe the Egyptians have done this to justify the evacuation of civilians from Port Said. The evacuation may already be taking place or will be started shortly, it is believed. An Egyptian military spokesman claimed in Cairo today that Israeli gunners shelled Port Said, killing one civilian and destroying a house.

### EEC Council Of Ministers Takes Up Question Of Associative Status For Israel

LUXEMBOURG, May 12 (JTA) -- The Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community took up the question of associative status for Israel at its session here today and agreed to consider it again at its next session after various proposals have been studied by its executive committee. With the exception of France whose negative position remains unchanged, the majority of the six-member states favor a preferential tariff arrangement with Israel.

## Bonn Decision To Seek Unqualified Abolition Of Statute Faces Uncertain Future

BONN, May 12 (JTA) -- A West German Government decision to abolish the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes without any qualifications faced heavy parliamentary sledding today, raising the question of whether effective legislation would emerge.

The Cabinet decided last month to ask the Parliament to abolish the statute and thus permit continued investigation and new prosecutions of Nazi war criminals on murder charges after Dec. 31. The Cabinet also voted to allow Parliament to consider amendments which would, in effect, block further action against Nazis who had committed murder on orders or had abetted murders. Minister of Justice Horst Ehmke, chief advocate of abolition of the statute of limitations, opposed attempts to permit watering down of the measure.

Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger, who voted in the Cabinet to abolish the statute, went along with the parliamentary faction of the Christian Democratic Union, which he heads, in support of an amendment which would differentiate between "major" and "minor" Nazi killers. The Government proposals will come before the Bundestag, the Lower House, probably next week, when the Christian Democrats will seek amendment to make this differentiation.

Some German newspapers have asserted that this amendment would virtually mean a total amnesty for Nazi war criminals who have not already been indicted. The Christian Democrats were reluctant to come out for abolition of the statute and most Conservative elements in Germany would like to see the war crimes trials ended and a curtain drawn over that era of the past. The Christian Democrats have also been described as fearful that their support of abolition would send many conservative and right-wing Germans into the extremist camp of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD).

(The New York Times editorially declared today that Chancellor Kiesinger had bowed to conservative pressure. It said that while it was not clear what effect his action would have on the coalition with the Social Democrats, "the impact outside Germany is all too predictable. Instead of a clean-cut decision to go on prosecuting all Nazi criminals for as long as required. Bonn now seems headed for a tortuous and divisive Bundestag wrangle about which Nazis should be let off.")

Independently of action on Nazi war crimes, the Bundestag had voted to abolish the statute of limitations on crimes of genocide and to extend from 20 to 30 years application of the statute to general murder.

### Political Stance Of Kiesinger Shifts To Rights, 'Times' Reports

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) -- The political stance of Chancellor Kiesinger has shifted markedly to the right in the past few months and has taken on a distinct nationalist and conservative coloration, New York Times correspondent David Binder reported from Bonn today. He said that senior aides of the Chancellor have described the change as not ideological but an "election tactic" designed to keep the ultra-nationalist, right-wing NPD from winning seats in the Bundestag Sept. 28 and to fend off a challenge from Finance Minister Franz Josef Strauss, an arch conservative who heads the Christian Social Union, the Bavarian branch of the Chancellor's Christian Democratic Union.

The Chancellor's aides said his shift in policy was behind Mr. Kiesinger's support for modification of the Cabinet's decision to abolish the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes prosecutions. The Chancellor has gone along with conservative elements in his own and other parties who want the bill to abolish the statute to exempt from prosecution Nazis who did not commit murder directly or who killed on the orders of their superiors.

Other manifestations of a more right-wing, nationalistic viewpoint cited were the delay in Bonn's promised signing of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty; a harsher attitude toward East Germany and a decision against the upward re-evaluation of the German mark, Mr. Binder reported. As a result of the Chancellor's shift, all parties in the West German parliament have shifted to the right on many issues, including the Social Democrats, the liberally inclined junior partner in the Bonn coalition Government, Mr. Binder said.

Hitherto regarded as "moderately liberal," Mr. Kiesinger is described by his aides now as a "nationalist, conservative" and apparently welcomes that label, Mr. Binder said. "One of the Chancellor's aides said that Mr. Kiesinger would actually welcome foreign denunciation, including American criticism...as grist for his campaign mill on a platform of 'defending German national interests,'" Mr. Binder wrote.

### NPD Chief Says Party Has Made Contacts In Britain, France And U.S.

BONN, May 12 (JTA) -- National Democratic leader Von Thadden said yesterday his party has established contacts with sympathetic politicians in Britain, France and the U.S., though he refused to name them. He spoke at the close of the NPD's pre-election congress in Stuttgart after 600 delegates unanimously approved a Nazi-like platform and cheered speakers who exhorted Germans to stop feeling guilty over the country's World War II deeds. Mr. Von Thadden said he had "opened contacts" with two members of the British Parliament in the interests of the NPD's "democratic image." He said that "political friends" in France, including some members of Parliament, had helped the NPD approach Government authorities in Paris and that the NPD had also succeeded in approaching "important American politicians."

## Jewish Agency Says Fiscal Year Cash Income From UJA, Keren Hayesod Was \$163.5 Million

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency disclosed today that it had a cash income of \$163.5 million from the United Jewish Appeal and Keren Hayesod during the last fiscal year which ended March 31, 1969. The Agency's treasurer, Arie L. Dultzin, said a 50 percent increase was expected during the current fiscal year. According to Mr. Dultzin, more than \$105 million were raised last year through UJA's Israel Emergency Fund campaign and \$58 million in the regular campaign. He said that in addition, pledges totalling \$50 million had not yet been paid up.

## 1,400 Athletes From 31 Countries Will Send Peace Plea To Thant At Maccabiah Opening

NEW YORK, May 12 (JTA) -- Fourteen hundred athletes from 31 countries participating in the Eighth World Maccabiah Games in Israel this summer will make a plea for peace to United Nations Secretary-General U Thant in special Jerusalem Day ceremonies on Mount Scopus Aug. 6. The plans were announced today by the United States Committee Sports For Israel, Inc., sponsor of the U.S. teams that will compete in Israel's version of the Olympic games. The message to Mr. Thant will be contained in a cable to UN headquarters in New York the day before the games close. The games will be opened on July 28 by President Zalman Shazar at the Ramat Gan stadium near Tel Aviv. Sports for Israel, Inc. announced that 30 nations have entered the Maccabiah in addition to Israel.

## SDS Members Pass Out Flyer Bearing Swastika, Carries Name Of American Rightists

SOUTH BEND, Indiana, May 12 (JTA) -- A Swastika-adorned flyer demanding that President Richard M. Nixon "cancel all weapons shipment to the Jews...to kill more Arab children" was handed out at a Students for a Democratic Society rally here recently. It carried the name of the National Socialist White People's Party, of Arlington, Va., successor to the defunct American Nazi Party of the late George Lincoln Rockwell. The crude handbill carried the headline, "Stop the slaughter, end Jewish aggression in the Middle East now." It contained a picture purported to be of an Arab father weeping over his child slain by Jews and warned that "every day that we support the Jews, we drive the Arabs deeper into the arms of the Soviets."

## Hebron Settlers Move Into Permanent Housing, 13 Months After Moving To West Bank Town

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- Jewish settlers in Hebron moved into permanent housing today, little more than a year after they established themselves in the West Bank Arab town without Government permission and announced their intention to stay. The two new buildings, which were authorized by the Cabinet, contain 13 apartments and various public institutions including a clinic. Until now, the settlers have been housed in temporary quarters in the military government compound. They arrived in Hebron in April, 1968, ostensibly to celebrate Passover at the Machpela Cave, reputed site of the Patriarchs' tomb. Later they announced that they intended to re-establish the Jewish community which has not existed in Hebron since the Arab uprising of 1936.

## Resignation Of Deputy Knesset Speaker Sardinas Requested By Moshav Movement

JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- The resignation of Deputy Knesset Speaker Moshe Sardinas has been requested by the moshav (small holders) movement which he represents in Israel's Parliament. A committee of the faction alleged that Mr. Sardinas has used his position to obtain loans and credit totalling \$25,000 for his family's farm at Moshav Geva Carmel. The committee emphasized that it had found no evidence of fraud or breach of trust. However, it refused to accept Mr. Sardinas' explanation that the public office he held forced him to neglect the business side of his farm.

### News In Brief

BRUSSELS, May 12 (JTA) -- An exhibition depicting the persecution of Jews by the Nazis and Jewish resistance was opened here today. It is sponsored by the union of former Jewish resistance fighters and is intended primarily to inform the younger generation of Nazi barbarism. Many schools have announced that they will have their students attend the exhibit.

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RIO DE JANEIRO, May 12 (JTA) -- Brazil's oldest Yiddish newspaper, the weekly Yiddish Presse, marked its 40th anniversary with the publication of a special 24-page edition. The paper was founded in 1929 as a daily but was made a weekly after World War II. Its editor for the past 18 years has been David Markus, the JTA correspondent here.

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JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- The sixth hostel in Jerusalem for the retarded, which has a capacity for 30 adults, was opened by Mrs. Rachal Shazar, wife of Israel's President. Admission will be for persons with an IQ of more than 50 who are partly able to care for themselves but become a strain on their families when they live with them. Attending the ceremony were Dr. Joseph Burg, Minister of Social Welfare, Mayor Teddy Kollek, and West German Ambassador Karl Knoke.

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JERUSALEM, May 12 (JTA) -- A controversial drug which has caused deformities in unborn babies has been discovered by doctors of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center to be helpful in treating leprosy. The drug, Thalidomide, was found to suppress violent body reactions to sulfones, a group of drugs which lepers must take throughout their lifetime. The discovery was made at a leprosarium in the West Bank town of Ramallah, according to Prof. F. Sagher, head of the department of dermatology at the Hadassah-University Medical Center. The leprosarium, to which Dr. Sagher offered his services after the Six-Day War, serves the people of Jordan.